

# United States Department of the Interior BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office Humboldt River Field Office 5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard

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http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html



In Reply Refer to: 4110/41604190 (NVWO100)

2012 Long Canyon Fire

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# Wildfire Management and Livestock Closure Decision

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

During the summer of 2012 the Long Canyon fire burned approximately 36,790 acres of public and 57 acres of private lands within the in the Crowley Creek (12,089 acres) and Jordan Meadows (24,701 acres) Allotments, which are within the jurisdiction of the Humboldt River Field Office (HRFO). After an interdisciplinary review it was determined that emergency stabilization and rehabilitation was needed to maintain and/or restore important resources affected by the fire. These resources include such things as vegetation structure, vegetative composition, wildlife habitat (especially sage grouse) and forage for wildlife and livestock.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Long Canyon fire ignited on August 10, 2012 just south of Cordero Mine on the Jordan Meadows Allotment within the Winnemucca BLM District. Values immediately in danger included Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) and Preliminary General Habitat (PGH) for the Greater Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) year-round and crucial winter habitat, mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) habitat, potential bighorn sheep (*Ovis Canadensis*) habitat and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*) habitat within Crowley Creek.

The area is predominately dominated by two ecological sites, a Loamy 10-12" P.Z. and a Clay Slope 8-12" P.Z. The potential native vegetative plant community for the Loamy 10-12" P.Z. is dominated by big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass and Thurber's needlegrass. The potential composition is approximately 60% grasses, 10% forbs and 30% shrubs. The approximate ground cover is 25-35 percent. The potential native vegetative plant community for the Clay Slope 8-12" P.Z. is dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber's needlegrass and Lahontan sagebrush. The potential composition is approximately 70% grasses, 10% forbs and 20% shrubs. The approximate ground cover is 20-30 percent.

An emergency stabilization and rehabilitation plan was developed to identify the treatments needed to maintain and/or restore resources within the burned area and to establish a healthy, stable ecosystem. The Long Canyon fire has increased the potential of wind and water erosion and the spread of noxious weeds and/or invasive and non-native plant species. Damage to these important resources could reduce ecological condition and rangeland health.

In order to promote the success of vegetative treatments and/or promote natural recovery, rest from livestock grazing is required. Areas effected by the fire must be rested from livestock grazing until objectives are met. Seeded areas normally take a minimum of two growing season to allow seed germination and establishment of root systems strong enough to withinstand livestock grazing. In addition to closing the burned area to livestock grazing, the need to temporarily suspend Animal Unit Months (AUMs) has been considered. To determine the need for temporarily suspending AUMs of active use, the interdisciplinary team considered the treatment type, the amount of use by livestock that the burn area has received and the suitability of the site for livestock grazing.

Therefore, it is my decision to implement the management actions identified below for Wildfire Management and Grazing Closure for the Long Canyon Fire:

## WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT DECISION

This decision is issued under 43 CFR 5003.1(b) and is effective upon issuance. The Bureau of Land Management, Humboldt River Field Office has made the determination that vegetation, soil and other resources on the public lands are at immediate risk of erosion or other damage due to the effects of the Long Canyon Fire.

CFR 5003.1(b) states that "Notwithstanding the provisions of 43 CFR 4.21 (a)(1), when BLM determines that vegetation, soil, or other resources on public lands are at substantial risk of wildfire due to drought, fuels buildup, or other reasons, or at immediate risk of erosion or other damage due to wildfire, BLM may make a wildfire management decision made under this part and parts 5400 through 5510 of this chapter effective immediately or on a date established in the decision."

This final decision is effective upon receipt in accordance with 43 CFR 5003.1(b), for the protection of the soil and vegetation due to wildfire.

The Bureau of Land Management, Humboldt River Field Office, has made the determination that vegetation, soil, and other resources on the public lands are at immediate risk of erosion or other damage due to the effects of the Long Canyon Fire.

# **Proposed Wildfire Management Actions:**

None of the proposed actions will impact cultural sites in the project area. Maps of authorized areas for ground disturbing activities have been issued to the project management and implementation staff.

## **Fencing:**

Approximately 12 miles of existing permanent fence will be repaired to exclude livestock from the burned area.

Approximately 6 miles of temporary fence will be constructed to exclude livestock from the burned area, allow natural recovery and to allow establishment of aerial and ground seedings.

## **Ground Seeding:**

Approximately 2,539 acres would be drill seeded within historic cheatgrass die-off areas and an additional 410 acres for the purpose of soil stabilization. The seed mix includes Sandberg's bluegrass, fourwing saltbush, shadscale, crested wheatgrass, forage kochia and Indian ricegrass. Other site-adapted native species may be added to or used as substitutions depending on cost and availability.

# **Aerial Seeding:**

Approximately 13,284 acres of Sage Grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat and/or Preliminary General Habitat will be aerially seeded with a seed mix consisting of Western Yarrow, perennial flax, Mountain Big sagebrush, Wyoming Big Sagebrush and Antelope bitterbrush. Other site-adapted native species may be added to or used as substitutions depending on cost and availability.

Approximately 2,539 acres within the cheatgrass die-off areas would be aerially seeded with Wyoming Big sagebrush.

## **Noxious Weeds Treatment/Management:**

The burned area will be inventoried for the presence of noxious and/or non-native invasive plants. Located infestations will be treated with BLM approved herbicides as appropriate and in compliance with BLM operating procedures and label requirements.

Drill seeding within the cheatgrass die-off areas (2,539 acres) will be treated with Plateau (Imazapic). Imazapic suppresses annual invasive plants and giving an advantage to seeded perennial plants.

#### **Rationale:**

This final decision is issued as Full Force and Effect in accordance with 43 CFR 5003.1(b), to allow the timely implementation of treatments within a time frame consistant with the urgent nature of burned area rehabilitation to mitigate the effects of wildfire and fire suppression activities on natural resources. Such resources include wildlife habitat, soil structure, and forage values for wildlife and livestock. Implementation of the treatments for the Long Canyon fire will protect against potential invasion and establishment of invasive and/or noxious weeds, provide

quality forage for wildlife and livestock, and facilitate meeting the Sierra Front Northwestern Great Basin Area Resource Advisory Council's (RAC) Standards and Guidelines.

The actions identified in this decision have received National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review in a Determination of NEPA Adequacy, DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2013-0001 (DNA) which can be viewed online at <a href="http://www.blm.gov/nv/st.en/fo/wfo/blm\_information/nepa0.html">http://www.blm.gov/nv/st.en/fo/wfo/blm\_information/nepa0.html</a>. Hardcopies of the DNA are available upon request. On the basis of the information contained in the DNA, it is my determination that implementation of the management actions will not have environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the NEPA documents identified in the DNA. I have also determined that the actions are in conformance with the Winnemucca District Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan, 1982.

Consultation for the actions identified in this decision have occurred with: Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and impacted permitees.

Analysis of the burned area and the associated range sites was completed to determine the suitability and location of the seeding treatments. Seed selected for the treatments are adapted to the range sites chosen for treatment and will facilitate a quicker vegetative response that will stabilize soils, reduce erosion, improve infiltration, provide competition for invasive non-native species, and replace organic litter that was consumed by the fire., the use of non-native species are justified due to their immediate availability within the appropriate biological window for ground seeding, the increased probability of successful seedling establishment, and their known competitive potential when seeded into lands affected by invasive annual grasses.

In order to increase the likelihood of successes, the seeding treatments will occur within the winter months in order to take advantage of available soil moisture. Research and implementation of previous emergency stabilization and rehabilitation plans have shown success with the timing and application methods that will be utilized to implement the seeding treatments. It is expected that vegetation establishment will be successful on all sites although the presence or absence of timely moisture will be a factor.

# **Monitoring:**

Through the development of the Long Canyon Fire Rehabilitation Plan, the interdisciplinary team has recommended vegetation treatments to stabilize soils, prevent the invasion of non-native invasive and/or noxious weed species, and to re-introduce vegetative species to the range sites. Monitoring will be completed to analyze the effectiveness and success of the rehabilitation treatments. Representative monitoring sites will be established to monitor density and cover of the seeded species, natural recovery and noxious and/or invasive weed encroachment. Density and cover measurements will be utilized to determine the effectiveness of seeding treatments. Photo points will also be established to qualitatively assess and document site conditions through time.

Sampling sites will be established in coordination with the effected permittee. Effectiveness monitoring will include a combination of the following methods as outlined in BLM Technical

Reference 1734-4 (BLM 1996) and Monitoring Manual for Grassland Shrubland and Savanna Ecosystems (Herrick et. al 2005).

<u>Plant Density Quadrats:</u> Density will be used to quantify seedling establishment success for the first three growing seasons. A 3ft<sup>2</sup> frame will be used to record seedling density along 3 transects which will be set up at pre-determined azimuths.

<u>Photo Points:</u> Photos will be taken of each transect from the center stake within the sampling plot at a standard height (1.5 m). Photo points will be used to qualitatively document site conditions and may show change that is indicated by quantitative data.

Monitoring will be oriented toward addressing the following questions: 1) Have the desirable species been successfully established and do they provide sufficient cover to adequately protect the site from soil erosion? 2) Is there evidence that a self-sustaining community has established? 3) Are vegetative reproduction and establishment of the desirable species occurring? When possible, all monitoring sites will have adjacent, non-treated reference sites established to compare results of treatments. Density and cover measurements will be utilized to determine the effectiveness of the seeding treatment.

Objectives for aerial seeding are as follows:

- 1. Obtain an average of 1 seeded, desirable, perennial plant per square meter.
- 2. Obtain an average of 1 sagebrush plant per 3 square meters.
- 3. Obtain 50% or greater perennial cover of the low potential perennial plant cover for the appropriate ecological site.

Objectives for ground seeding are as follows:

- 1. Obtain an average of 3 seeded, desirable, perennial plant per square meter.
- 2. Obtain an average of 1 sagebrush plant per 3 square meters.
- 3. Obtain 50% or greater perennial cover of the low potential perennial plant cover for the appropriate ecological site.

Objectives for natural recover are as follows:

1. Obtain 20% or greater perennial cover of the low potential perennial plant cover for the appropriate ecological site.

## **DECISION AUTHORITY:**

The authority for this decision is contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) which states in pertinent parts:

§5003.1(b) "Notwithstanding the provisions of 43 CFR 4.21(a)(1), when BLM determines that vegetation, soil, or other resources on public lands are at substantial risk of wildfire due to drought, fuels buildup, or other reasons, or at immediate risk of erosion or other damage due to wildfire, BLM may make a wildfire management decision effective immediately or on a date established in the decision. Wildfire management includes but is not limited to:

(2) Projects to stabilize and rehabilitate lands affected by wildfire.

#### **APPEAL PROVISIONS:**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 at the below address. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed within this office to Edward Seum, Field Manager, Humboldt River Field Office within 30 days from the effective date of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. Notwithstanding the provisions of 43 CFR 4.21(a)(1), filing a notice of appeal does not automatically suspend the effect of the decision.

United States Department of the Interior Office of the Secretary Board of Land Appeals 4015 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia 22203

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to 43 CFR 4.21(b) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named on this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

WHERE TO FILE

NOTICE OF APPEAL. . . . .

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca Field Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, NV 89445

SOLICITOR U.S. Department of the Interior ALSO COPY TO. . . . Office of the Field Solicitor

Pacific Southwest Region

2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712

Sacramento, CA 95825

A petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

#### GRAZING CLOSURE DECISION

This decision is issued effective upon issuance in accordance with 43 CFR 4110.3-3(b) and 43 CFR 4160.3(f). The Bureau of Land Management has made the determination that vegetation, soil, and other resources on the public lands are at immediate risk of erosion or other damage due to wildfire and the continued grazing use poses an imminent likelihood of significant resource damage.

Therefore, it is my final decision to implement the following actions:

- 1. Close the burned areas associated with the Long Canyon Fire to livestock grazing beginning November 2012. The fire will remain closed until vegetation objectives are achieved.
- 2. Due to the size, vegetative communities, and other resources associated with the fire, there will be a reduction of AUMs associated with the permits held by Bartell Ranch, LLC and Jordan Meadows, LLC.

The following is the season of use and AUMs for the Crowley Creek Allotment as well as the temporary suspension of AUMs associated with the fire:

Permittee	Allotment	Livestock Type	Season of Use	Active AUMs	Temporary AUM Suspension
Bartell Ranch, LLC	Crowley Creek	Cattle	4/1-12/16	3,300	800

The Lower Indian, Upper Trout, Lower Trout and Middle Lyle Springs Pastures will be completely closed to livestock grazing and a portion of the Lower Lyle Springs Pasture will be closed.

The following shows the temporary restrictions/closures and affected grazing system for the Crowley Creek allotment:

Pasture	Status	Dates AUMs		AUMs
		Authorized	Available (post-	suspended
		(from FMUD)	burn)	
Lower Indian	Partial Closure	(Yr. 1) 4/1-4/30	357	138
		(Yr. 2) 5/1-5/31		
Upper Trout	Partial Closure	(Yr. 1) 5/1-5/31	406	89
		(Yr. 2) 4/1-5/31		
Middle Indian	Open	(Yr. 1) 6/1-6/19	125	0
		(Yr. 2) Rest		
*Upper Lyle	Open	(Yr. 1) 6/1-6/19;	125; 421	0
Springs		6/20-7/31		
		(Yr. 2) 6/1-7/31	802	0

Lower Trout	Closed	(Yr. 1) 8/1-9/19	0	658
		(Yr. 2) 8/6-9/24		
Middle Lyle	Partial Closure	(Yr. 1) Rest	167	4
Springs		(Yr. 2) 8/1-8/5;		
		11/8-11/15		
Gooseneck	Open	(Yr. 1) 12/1-12/7	92	0
		(Yr. 2) 9/25-	710	
		11/07		
		·		·
Lower Lyle	Partial Closure	(Yr. 1) 10/1-	442	360
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Lower Lyle	Partial Closure	(Yr. 1) 10/1-	442	360
Springs		11/30		
		(Yr. 2) 11/16-		
		12/7		

- Pole Creek, which runs through this pasture, is an LCT occupied stream. If utilization objectives of 30% on *Salix* sp. are hit before the allotted time is up in the pasture then livestock will need to be herded or moved off of the pasture completely.
  - 3. No temporary fencing funding was given for the rehabilitation of this fire on the Crowley Creek allotment. All developed and/or fenced water sources in and near the burned areas are to remain turned off or inaccessible to livestock to insure the area is not utilized by livestock prior to being re-opened to livestock grazing. The permittee is responsible for ensuring that livestock remain off of the burned areas. If it is determined, through monitoring and compliance checks, that this method is not effective or is not being properly implemented, a larger portion of the allotment will be closed to make use of existing fencing to close the burned area to livestock grazing. This action would result in temporary increase in the suspension of AUMs.

The following is the season of use and AUMs for the Jordan Meadows Allotment as well as the temporary suspension of AUMs associated with the fire:

Permittee Allotment		Livestock Type	Season of Use	Active AUMs	Temporary AUM Suspension
Jordan Meadows, LLC	Jordan Meadows	Cattle	3/1-12/31	11,720	2,600

The Salient Peak and Cordero Pastures will be partially closed to livestock grazing.

4. A fence will be constructed within the Jordan Meadows Allotment to exclude livestock from the burned area. All developed and/or fenced water sources in and near the burned areas are to remain turned off or inaccessible to livestock to insure the area is not utilized by livestock prior to being re-opened to livestock grazing. If it is determined that this method is not effective or is not being properly implemented a larger portion of the

allotment will be closed to livestock grazing which may result in temporary suspension of more AUMs.

#### **Rationale**

This decision is being issued in Full Force and Effect, in accordance with 4110.3-3(b) and 4160.3(f), in order to provide an opportunity for the burn area to recover, to allow for successful establishment of seeding treatments and to limit the likelihood of significant damage to natural resources. Rest from livestock grazing is required in order to successfully re-establish perennial vegetation, restore plant vigor and seed production, minimize active soil erosion and minimize the post fire occurrence of cheatgrass and noxious weed establishment. The establishment of vegetation criteria accompanied by annual monitoring will ensure that perennial vegetation will be fully recovered from the effects of the burn prior to the re-introduction of livestock grazing. The growing season for key perennial grasses in the burned area approximately begins in April and ends in August depending upon the year and the species type.

The actions identified in this decision have received National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review in a Determination of NEPA Adequacy, DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2013-0001 (DNA)which can be viewed online at <a href="http://www.blm.gov/nv/st.en/fo/wfo/blm\_information/nepa0.html">http://www.blm.gov/nv/st.en/fo/wfo/blm\_information/nepa0.html</a>. Hardcopies of the DNA are available upon request. On the basis of the information contained in the DNA, it is my determination that implementation of the management actions will not have environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the NEPA documents identified in the DNA. I have also determined that the actions are in conformance with the Winnemucca District Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan, 1982.

Consultaion for the actions identified in this decision have occurred with: Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and impacted permitees.

# **Vegetation Objectives/Criterion for Reintroduction of Livestock**

For pastures which include Preliminary Priority and/or Preliminary General (PPH or PGH)sage grouse habitat and receives 10 or more inches of precipitation, the following applies:

1. In addition to the rehabilitation plan objectives, perennial vegetative cover must meet or exceed 100% of the low potential perennial ground cover for the appropriate ecological site.

For pastures which include Preliminary Priority and/or Preliminary General (PPH and/or PGH) sage grouse habitat and receives less than 10 inches of precipitation, the following applies:

1. In addition to the rehabilitation plan objectives, perennial vegetative cover must meet or exceed 75% of the low potential perennial ground cover for the appropriate ecological site.

For all other pastures, the following applies:

1. In addition to the rehabilitation plan objectives, perennial vegetative cover must meet or exceed 50% of the low potential perennial ground cover for the appropriate ecological site.

In pastures containing occupied or recovery Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) streams or streams with recent General Aquatic Wildlife System (GAWS) survey data, the following applies for each stream:

- 1. In addition to the rehabilitation plan objectives and the appropriate cover objective, obtain 100% of the most recent pre-fire GAWS stream survey ratings for bank cover, bank soil stability and bank vegetation stability and a minimum rating of 65.
- 2. In addition to the rehabilitation plan objectives and the appropriate cover objective, obtain an average height of 1.5 meters (approximately 5 feet) for woody species such as aspen, willow and alder in each stream.

In pastures that contain perennial streams which are not LCT streams or that do not have GAWS survey data, the following applies:

- 1. In addition to the rehabilitation plan objectives and the appropriate cover objective, obtain greenline percentages for the appropriate Riparian Capability Group for streambank cover as identified in Appendix A of the US Forest Service's General Technical Reference RMRS-GTR-47 in each stream.
- 2. In addition to the rehabilitation plan objectives and the appropriate cover objective, obtain an average height of 1.5 meters (approximately 5 feet) for woody species such as aspen, willow and alder in each stream.

Vegetation monitoring will begin one year post fire and after the growing season. Data collected will indicate progress of the vegetative re-establishment. Data will also be used to determine the potential for these areas to meet the set criteria. If the establishment criteria are not met after the second growing season of the grazing closure, the area's potential to meet the criteria will be evaluated. Some of the factors to be considered in this evaluation will be: vegetation trends as determined by monitoring data, the amount of total precipitation, amount of growing season precipitation, the benefits of additional growing seasons of rest and the amount of natural recovery compared to the amount of seeded species.

Monitoring will be conducted annually following the growing season. Monitoring sites will be established in 2013. Permittees and the interested public will be notified when monitoring studies will be conducted and invited to participate.

#### **DECISION AUTHORITY:**

The authority for this decision is contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) including, but not limited to the following:

§4110.3-3(b) "When the authorized officer determines that the soil, vegetation, or other resources on the public lands require immediate protection because of conditions such as drought, fire, flood, or insect infestation, or when continued grazing use poses a significant risk of resource damage, after consultation with, or a reasonable attempt to consult with, affected permittees or lessees, the interested public, and the State having lands or responsible for managing resources within the area, the authorized officer shall close allotments or portions of allotments to grazing by any kind of livestock or modify authorized grazing use notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section. Notices of closure and decisions requiring modification of authorized grazing use may be issued as final decisions effective upon issuance or on the date specified in the decision. Such decisions shall remain in effect pending the decision on appeal unless a stay is granted by the Office of Hearings and Appeals in accordance with 43 CFR 4.21."

§4160.3(f): "Notwithstanding the provisions of §4.21(a) of this title pertaining to the period during which a final decision will not be in effect, the authorized officer may provide that the final decision shall be effective upon issuance or on a date established in the decision and shall remain in effect pending the decision on appeal unless a stay is granted by the Office of Hearings and Appeals when the authorized officer has made a determination in accordance with §4110.3-3(b), or 4150.2(d). Nothing in this section shall affect the authority of the Director of the Office of Hearings and Appeals or the Interior Board of Land Appeals to place decisions in full force and effect as provided in §4.21(a)(1) of this title."

#### **APPEAL PROVISIONS:**

In accordance with 43 CFR 4.470, and 4160.4, any person whose interest is adversely affected by a final decision of the authorized officer may appeal the decision for the purpose of a hearing before an administrative law judge. The appeal must be filed within 30 days after receipt of the final decision. In accordance with 43 CFR 4.470, the appeal shall state clearly and concisely the reason(s) why the appellant thinks the final decision of the authorized officer is wrong.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 4.471 and 4160.4, an appellant also may petition for a stay of the final decision pending appeal by filing a petition for stay along with the appeal within 30 days after receipt of the final decision.

The appeal and any petition for stay must be filed at the office of the authorized officer, Edward Seum, Field Manager, Humboldt River Field Office at 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd Winnemucca, NV 89445. Within 15 days of filing the appeal and any petition for stay, the appellant also must serve a copy of the appeal and any petition for stay on any person named in the decision and listed at the end of the decision, and on the Office of the Solicitor, Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712, Sacramento, California 95825-1890.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 4.471(c), a petition for stay, if filed, must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and,
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

43 CFR 4.471(d) provides that the appellant requesting a stay bears the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken (other than the appellant) who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. Within 15 days after filing the motion to intervene and response, the person must serve copies on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).

At the conclusion of any document that a party must serve, the party or it's representative must sign a written statement certifying that service has been or will be made in accordance with the applicable rules and specifying the date and manner of such service (43 CFR 4.422(c)(2)).

Sincerely,

/s/ 12/4/2012

Edward Seum Field Manager Humboldt River Field Office

Enclosure(s)

cc: Interested Public